CLAIMS

We Claim:

1.   In a client device, a method comprising:

dynamically obtaining by the client device at least one alert detection and

management parameter from a first server;

dynamically obtaining configuration data from a remote alert proxy using the at

least one obtained alert detection and management parameter; and

automatically configuring the client device using the dynamically obtained

configuration data.

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the automatically configuring the client device

using the dynamically obtained configuration data further comprises enabling the client

device to detect alerts.

3.   The method of claim 2, wherein the client device is enabled to detect alerts while

in a reduced functional state.

4.   The method of claim 3, wherein the reduced functional state includes an

operating system unavailable state.

5.   The method of claim 1, wherein the first server operates according to a dynamic

host control protocol (DHCP).

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6.   The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one alert detection and management

parameter is requested by the client device from the first server.

1   7.   The method of claim 6, wherein the at least one alert detection and management

2   parameter is requested by the client device using the options field of a dynamic host

3   control protocol (DHCP) message.

1   8.   The method of claim 1, wherein dynamically obtaining by the client device the at

2   least one alert detection and management parameter further comprises dynamically

3   obtaining at least one of an alert destination address, a watchdog interval, and a

4   heartbeat interval.

9.   The method of claim 8, wherein the alert destination address uniquely identifies

2   the remote alert proxy on a network.

1   10.   The method of claim 1, wherein the configuration data is dynamically obtained

2   from a remote alert proxy through a remote management and control protocol (RMCP).

11.   In a first server, a method comprising:

2   receiving by an alert proxy, a configuration data request from a client device, the

3   configuration data request being submitted by the client device using at least one

4   dynamically obtained alert detection and management parameter; and

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5   providing the requested configuration data to the client device to enable the client

6   device to be automatically configured.

1   12.   The method of claim 11, wherein the at least one dynamically obtained alert

2   detection and management parameter is dynamically obtained from a second server.

1   13.   The method of claim 12, wherein the second server operates according to a

2   dynamic host control protocol (DHCP).

1   14.   The method of claim 12, wherein the at least one dynamically obtained alert

2   detection and management parameter includes at least one of a dynamically obtained

3   alert destination address, a watchdog interval, and a heartbeat interval.

1   15.   The method of claim 14, wherein the dynamically obtained alert destination

2   address uniquely identifies the first server on a network.

1   16.   The method of claim 11, wherein the requested configuration data is provided to

2   the client device through a remote management and control protocol (RMCP).

1   17.   The method of claim 11, wherein the providing the requested configuration data

2   to the client device to enable the client device to be automatically configured further

3   comprises enabling the client device to detect alerts.

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1   18.   The method of claim 17, wherein the client device is enabled to detect alerts

2   independent from whether an operating system is operable on the client device.

19.   An apparatus comprising logic to:

2   dynamically obtain at least one alert detection and management

3   parameter from a first server;

4   dynamically obtain configuration data from a remote alert proxy using the

5   at least one obtained alert detection and management parameter; and

6   configure the apparatus using the dynamically obtained configuration data.

1   20.   The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the at least one obtained alert detection and

2   management parameter includes at least one of an alert destination address, a

3   watchdog interval, and a heartbeat interval.

1   21.   The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the logic configures the apparatus to:

2   detect alerts while the apparatus is in an operating system unavailable state.

22   An article of manufacture comprising a machine readable medium having a

2   plurality of machine readable instructions stored thereon, wherein when the instructions

3   are executed by a processor, the instructions subscribe the processor to:

4   dynamically obtain at least one alert detection and management parameter from

5   a first server;

6   dynamically obtain configuration data from a remote alert proxy using the at least

7   one obtained alert detection and management parameter; and

8   configure a device containing the processor using the dynamically obtained

9   configuration data.

1   23.   The article of manufacture of claim 22, wherein the instructions further subscribe

2   the processor to configure the device to:

3   detect alerts while the device is in a reduced functional state.

24.   The article of manufacture of claim 22, wherein the at least one obtained alert

2   detection and management parameter includes at least one of an alert destination

3   address, a watchdog interval, and a heartbeat interval.

1   25.   An article of manufacture comprising a machine readable medium having a

2   plurality of machine readable instructions stored thereon, wherein when the instructions

3   are executed by a processor, the instructions subscribe the processor to:

4   receive a configuration data request from a client device, the configuration data

5   request being submitted by the client device using at least one dynamically obtained

6   alert detection and management parameter obtained from a server device; and

7   provide the requested configuration data to the client device to enable the client

8   device to be automatically configured.

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1   26.   The article of manufacture of claim 25, wherein the at least one dynamically

2   obtained alert detection and management parameter includes at least one of an alert

3   destination address, a watchdog interval, and a heartbeat interval.

1   27.   The article of manufacture of claim 25, wherein the instructions further subscribe

2   the processor to provide the requested configuration data to the device using a remote

3   management and control protocol (RMCP).

1   28.   The article of manufacture of claim 25, wherein the instructions further subscribe

2   the processor to provide the requested configuration data to the device to enable the

3   device to be automatically configured while in an operating system unavailable mode.

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